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HAMAS ACCEPTS EGYPTIAN-QATARI CEASEFIRE PROPOSAL TO HALT WAR

Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh on Monday informed Qatar and Egypt that his group accepts their proposal for a ceasefire in Gaza

ISRAELI DELEGATION SKIPPED PEACE TALKS

Details of the proposal were not immediately released. But Egyptian and Hamas officials have said the ceasefire would take place in stages and Hamas would release hostages in exchange for Israel troop pullout from Gaza. There was no immediate reaction from Israel, which did not send a delegation to Cairo for talks, and is opposed to withdrawing its troops from Gaza

BALL IN ISRAEL'S COURT, MORE PRESSURE ON BIBI

- Hamas' acceptance of the deal is nonetheless expected to put pressure on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, especially if its proposes release of hostages held by Hamas in Gaza
- Also, it would make it more difficult for the Israeli government to justify a ground operation in southern Gaza's Rafah | P11

1,00,000

PALESTINIANS IN RAFAH WERE ORDERED BY ISRAEL TO LEAVE THE TOWN

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

More victims willing to file plaints against Prajwal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE noose around 33-year-old sex video scandal accused Hassan MP **Prajwal Revanna** is likely to further tighten as more victims are reportedly willing to file complaints against him.

The women officers, who are part of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) formed by the state government to probe the alleged scandal, have identified more than 25 victims and have reportedly spoken to them. Of these victims, some are willing to file rape complaints against the MP if their identities are not revealed and protection given to them.

Two FIRs have already been registered against Prajwal. The first complaint was registered in Holenarasipur town police station, while the second one was filed at the CID police station in Bengaluru. The second complaint is more serious as the 44-year-old victim has accused the MP of raping her at his MP Quarters on RC Road in Hassan at gunpoint.

Some of the victims have orally provided details of the accused and the incidents to the officials. To tighten the case and to ensure that the MP does not escape, the SIT officials want more victims to file complaints against him. Statements made by the victims before the SIT do not guarantee punishment to the accused, but the FIRs will have a stronger impact, said a senior official.

Meanwhile, the 47-year-old victim, who was the first to file a complaint of sexual harassment against Holenarasipur MLA HD Revanna and Prajwal, was brought to Revanna's Bengaluru residence in Basavanagudi near Ashoka Pillar for the spot mahazar.

A team of SIT officials brought the victim on Monday morning. **CONTINUED ON: P4**

> **The SIT officials did not let me inside the premises during the spot mahazars. I have been authorised to be present during the spot mahazars** — Gopal, an advocate

DKS BEHIND SEX PEN DRIVE LEAK: HASSAN BJP LEADER

Bengaluru: Deputy CM DK Shivakumar is behind leaking the alleged sex pen drives of Hassan MP and Lok Sabha candidate Prajwal Revanna, alleged advocate and BJP leader from Hassan, Devaraje Gowda on Monday. "I was offered a cabinet minister's post through LR Shivarame Gowda," he said. He alleged that Shivarame Gowda was the one who connected the call to Shivakumar. But he refused to reveal more details about the telephone conversation between him and the deputy chief minister. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said the state is not intervening in the SIT probe. "Devarajegowda's allegations are misleading," he added. **P4**

Stakes high for Kharge, BSY, NCP in Phase 3

BJP sees it as one of consolidation; 30-40 seats to witness triangular contests today

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR AND DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ New Delhi/ Bengaluru

THE electoral fate of half-a-dozen Union ministers and two former chief ministers will be sealed on Wednesday in the third phase of the general elections is 93 constituencies in 11 states and Union territories. The BJP sees the third phase as one of consolidation as compared to the first two phases.

Prominent among the heavyweight candidates in this phase are Union home minister Amit Shah in Gandhinagar, Union health minister Mansukh Mandaviya (Porbandar), civil aviation minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia (Guna), former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Digvijaya Singh (Rajgarh), NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar)'s Supriya Sule (Baramati), and Adhir Ranjan Choudhary (Berhampur).

In Uttar Pradesh, representatives of the Mulayam Singh Yadav clan are contesting in this phase — Dimple Yadav from Mainpuri, Akshaya Yadav, son of Ram Gopal Yadav, from Firozabad and Aditya Yadav, son of Shivpal Yadav, from Budaun.

In Karnataka, the last of the 14 seats will go to polls in what is being seen as a high-stakes battle for Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge. For, most of the seats are in North Karnataka, which is regarded as his home turf. The elections are equally important for former chief minister B S Yediyurappa, whose son Vijayendra is the state BJP president.

Prominent among those in the fray in Karnataka are former CMs Basavaraj Bommai (Haveri) and Jagadish Shettar (Belgaum), Union ministers Pralhad Joshi (Dharwad) and Bhagwant Khuba (Bidar), Yediyurappa's son Raghavendra (Shivamogga), and Kharge's son-in-law Radhakrishna Doddamani (Gulbarga SC).

According to sources, around 30-40 constituencies in the third phase will witness triangular contests, giving sitting Lok Sabha members a really tough time. Most of the sitting MPs are from the ruling BJP. **POLLS IN 14 K'TAKA SEATS TODAY: P6**

PHASE 3 FACTOIDS

93 seats for which polling will be held in 11 states/UTs

1,300 candidates including around 120 women, in the fray

11 crore people eligible to vote

- Entire Gujarat and Goa, **11 seats** in Maharashtra, **10** in UP, **14** in Karnataka, **7** in Chhattisgarh, 5 in Bihar, **4** each in Assam and West Bengal to go to polls

INDIAN OLY TEAM TO GET SLEEP THERAPIST AND PHYSIOS

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Mumbai

THE Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has made elaborate plans to take a battery of support staff including a sleep therapist and a small army of physiotherapists to help the Indian contingent at the Paris Games. Unlike in the previous Games, they will also get a full-fledged recovery room. The advantages include cryotherapy chambers and ice baths to help athletes recover faster in their quest for Olympic glory.

EXCLUSIVE

"This year," Dinshaw Pardiwala, the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of the delegation, said, "the IOA took the decision to have a proper medical team like some of the bigger squads (Germany, US and Japan). What used to happen is our physiotherapists used to be there, we did have a physician who would help with services but we didn't have a full (medical) team. Whenever somebody had an injury, they would do an MRI and contact me here. But it's difficult to do it online."

Dinshaw Pardiwala, head of Centre for Sports Medicine at Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital in Mumbai

The well-equipped recovery room will be a first-of-its-kind for Indian athletes. "When you are doing high-level sports, you require a full support system," Pardiwala, who has mended the bones of almost every medal-winning Indian Olympian in the 21st century, said. "Although the Olympic Village has a polyclinic and some physiotherapy services, it's difficult when you have 10000 athletes and 12 ice baths." He was very elaborate when speaking about the need for a sleep therapist in the modern world. At least some of it has to do with the Paris Games' desire to be carbon-neutral. "It's also going to be important because the Games have decided that they won't have air-conditioning in the Village as they would like to go green."

India, like some of the other contingents, are planning to take their air cooling units but the sleep therapist will act as a backstop in case this plan doesn't work out. "The process is going on, we have requested ACs. If that doesn't happen, we will have to manage our own air cooling systems. In case there's a heat wave, it will be difficult to adjust at the last minute. So, we have taken that factor into consideration also (to have a sleep therapist)."

Delhi L-G calls for NIA probe against Kejriwal

ASHISH SRIVASTAVA @ New Delhi

LIEUTENANT Governor of Delhi V K Saxena on Monday recommended a probe by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) against Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, citing an allegation that his Aam Aadmi Party received funding from the banned pro-Khalistan group, Sikhs for Justice.

The L-G's recommendation comes amid the Supreme Court's indication that it may consider giving bail to Kejriwal in view of the Lok Sabha polls.

In a letter written to the Union home ministry, the L-G said his recommendation is based on a complaint he received about the AAP receiving $16 million from Khalistani groups for facilitating the release of Devendra Pal Bhullar, who was convicted for his role in the 1993 blast in Delhi. The complaint mentioned by the L-G was filed by Ashoo Mongia, the national general secretary of the World Hindu Federation, referring to a video in which Khalistani leader Gurpatwant Singh Pannun mentioned that the AAP took money from pro-Khalistani groups between 2014 and 2022.

Saxena also mentioned a letter written by Kejriwal to activist Iqbal Singh in 2014, saying his government has recommended to the President to release Bhullar. Hitting back, AAP called him a BJP's agent. "The BJP is losing all the seven seats in Delhi, hence it is upset," a senior AAP leader said.

K'taka to see robust monsoon

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

THIS southwest monsoon is expected to be a robust one for Karnataka. Experts have forecast a non-drought year and farmers are expected to harvest a bumper crop this time.

Karnataka faced 16 drought years between 2001 and 2023, and 2023 was the worst in the last 123 years. In 2023, the state recorded less rainfall, resulting in 223 of the 236 taluks being declared drought-hit. Added to this, most parts of Karnataka saw a dry spell from January to April this year. However, things are changing now with the state receiving some rain in May.

Former director of Karnataka State Natural Disaster Management Centre Srinivas Reddy said the IMD has predicted 106% more rain this monsoon, which is more than normal across the country. It will be the same for Karnataka. **P5**

After 50 years, it's curtains for city's iconic Cauvery theatre

A SHARADHAA @ Bengaluru

CURTAINS have fallen on yet another iconic theatre, Cauvery, nestled in the bustling heart of Sadashivnagar in namma Bengaluru. The theatre, which played host to an array of films, including blockbusters spanning multiple languages over its illustrious history, shut down on April 19.

From the 30-week marathon of the Telugu sensation Sankarabharanam (1980) to the 22-week reign of the Bollywood classic Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge (1995) and the 12-week saga of the Kannada film Premada Kanike (1976), starring Dr Rajkumar, the Cauvery theatre was a cultural hub for cinephiles from all backgrounds. Even Kamal Haasan's Indian (1996) graced its screens for over 100 days, alongside numerous other Kannada films marking a successful run till the last film, Kantara (2022), which enjoyed a successful 50-day run at its box-office.

Inaugurated on January 11, 1974, with the screening of Dr Rajkumar's Bangarada Panjara (1974), the Cauvery theatre marked its 50th anniversary in January 2024, amidst fanfare and nostalgia. However, a decision made a decade ago ultimately sealed its fate. Prakash, who took the legacy of the Cauvery theatre, built by his father Narasimhaiah, reflects on the inexorable march of time and the harsh realities of a post-Covid world. **P2**

Cauvery theatre being demolished to make way for a commercial complex | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA